

## REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add the cross-reference to the prior applications.

The above claim amendments present claims patterned after claims of the Bradish 906 patent. The origin of, and support for, the new claims is described in detail below.

### **A. Background of This Request and Overview**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with the subject continuation application to present claims patterned after the Bradish, U.S. Patent No. 6,508,906, issued January 21, 2003. More particularly, the above new claims 16-24 have been substantially copied from or are patterned after claims 1, 4-8, 10, 13 and 16, respectively, of the Bradish 906 patent.

These claims are being presented within one year of the January 21, 2003 date on which the Bradish 906 patent was granted, and therefore meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 135(b).

Claim 16 is essentially the same as or similar to claim 1 of the Bradish 906 patent. Claim 16, and the other pending claims are fully supported by the specification and are entitled to an effective filing date of at least as early as March 7, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(e).

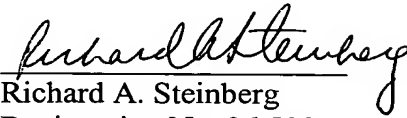
It is respectfully submitted that claims 16-24 are in condition for allowance in this application, and a notice to that effect is courteously solicited.

### **B. Application of New Claims to Specification and Correspondence with U.S. 6,508,906**

Claim No. US 6,508,906	Claim No. Application	Support in Specification
1	16	Page 8, lines 5-10; page 10, lines 3-21; page 11, lines 17-19; Example 1, pages 11-12.
4	17	Page 7, lines 21-23
5	18	Page 5, lines 30-31
6	19	Page 8, lines 23-24
7	20	Page 12, lines 12-18
8	21	Page 12, lines 19-21
10	22	Example 1, pages 11-12
13	23	Page 8, lines 8-10
16	24	Page 12, line 6

If any questions remain after consideration of this paper, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard A. Steinberg  
Registration No. 26,588  
Phone: (703) 905-2039

Paul L. Sharer  
Registration No. 36,004  
Phone: (703) 905-2180

Date: January 21, 2004

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP  
1600 Tysons Blvd.  
McLean, VA 22102  
Phone: (703) 905-2100  
Fax: (703) 905-2500

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure  
Copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,508,906